(xvii) AWW would also assist in implementation of Nutrition Programme for Adolecent Girls (NPAG) as per the guidelines of the Scheme and maintain such record as prescribed under the NPAG.

(xviii) Anaganwadi Worker can function as depot holder for RCH Kit/ contraceptives and disposable delivery kits. However, actual distribution of delivery kits or administration of drugs, other than OTC (Over the Counter) drugs would actually be carried out by the ANM or ASHA as decided by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(xix) To identify the disability among children during her home visits and refer the case immediately to the nearest PHC or District Disability Rehabilitation Centre.

(xx) To support in organizing Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) drives.

(xxi) To inform the ANM in case of emergency cases like diarrhoea, cholera etc.

Poverty stricken children in Bihar

2248. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 1000 poverty stricken family children are either kidnapped or go out of Bihar as per the information published in the print media recently; and

(b) if so, the measures Government are taking for children's education, health and employment in the States like Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Welfare of anganwadi workers

†2249. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ever thought seriously about Anganwadi workers;

(b) if so, the steps taken for their well being; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether State Government actively implement proposals sent by Government for the well-being of Anganwadi workers; and

(d) the States which are still not making payment of hiked honorarium to such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir; Government of India has always been conscious of the importance of the role of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

(b) Government has extended facilities such as paid absence on maternity for 135 days and 20 days leave per year. Insurance cover has also been extended by the Government to them w.e.f. 1.4.2004 under the Life Insurance Corporation's Social Security Scheme. A scheme of Awards, for exemplary work, has also been introduced from the year 2000 both, at the National and State level. Besides, the State Governments have also been requested to reserve 25% of the vacant post of the Supervisors for AWWs, to recruit at least 25% of AWH to the post of AWW, set up Grievance Redressal Machinery at the State/UT level and District. Level for prompt redressal of their grievances etc.

(c) The Government issues guidelines from time to time in the matter which are, generally, followed by most of the States/UTs.

(d) The honorarium payable to AWWs and AWHs was last enhanced in the year 2002. No complaint of non-payment of honorarium as per the revised rates has come to the notice of the Government in the recent past.

Health related deficiencies in children

†2250. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children upto the age of 14 years are found suffering from many health related deficiencies;

(b) if so, what are these deficiencies and the percentage of children suffering from each type of deficiency;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.